**Growth rate of software exports**

4199. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate of software export in 1998-99,1999-2000 and 2000-01;

(b) whether higher growth rate of software export has been projected for the year 2001-2002;

(c) if so, the percentage of increase in comparison to the previous year,

(d) whether the International Data Corporation (IDC) has visualised a decline of software export growth rate in the country (India) in the year 2001-02; and

(e) if so, to what extent slow down has been projected by IDC ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The growth rate of software export was 83% in 1998-99,38% in 1999-2000 and 63% in 2000-2001.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) For the year 2001-02, a growth rate of 40-45% in software exports is projected.

(d) and (e) As per newspaper reports, the market intelligence firm, International Data Corporation (IDC) has lowered the projections for Indian software exports growth in 2001-02 to 20-25%, from 50% projected by them earlier.

**Information Technology for social development**

4200. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to make use to Information Technology for social development of the poor people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps taken by Government to implement these proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details of projects undertaken, taking IT to rural areas and poor people are mentioned in the statement *(see* below). The Ministry of Information Technology establishes the technology and further replication is done by the user agencies.

**Statement**

*Division-wise project activities implemented/Implementing by MIT are mentioned below*

1. *IT for Masses Div.*

For taking benefit of IT to the people and to reduce the Digital Divide, a Working Group of IT for Masses was set up in 2000. There are various IT based programme for socio-economic development of the rural peoples have been recommended by the Working Group. To oversee the implementation of recommendations of Working Group, a National IT Mission has been set up in the month of June 2001. As per recommendation of Working Group, IT for Masses Division is in the process of formulating project proposal along with well-known reputable NGO's working for social causes in rural areas. Some of the project activities that are being formulated are given below:

1. Adult literacy
2 Rural empowerment and creating awareness on social, education etc.
3. Vocational training and employment generation for rural people
4. Health Care advice from remote specialist
5. IT enabled education

2. *Education Research Div.*

Govt, has recently approved a project for setting up of the Media Lab Asia in India in collaboration with Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA. Govt, has also approved an exploratory phase of one year of the project with a budgetary support of Rs.65 crores as grant in aid.

The role of the Media Lab Asia is to facilitate invention, refinement and deployment of innovation that benefit the masses especially in the areas of education, health and miCTO-entrepreneurship. Media Lab Asia would work with industry, NGOs, Govt, and ordinary people to bring these innovations to villages in India. The Media Lab Asia will undertake educational research and

developmental activities and facilitate designing and technology transfer in the field of Information and Communication Technologies and other emerging knowledge fields.

An agreement was signed between Ministry of Information Technology and MIT, USA on 24th June, 2001 to set up the Media Lab Asia in India. Media Lab Asia project would be implemented by setting up a non-profit company in India under Section 25 of Company Laws. The process of setting up of the Company has already began.

3. *Knowledge Based Enterprises Division*

List of projects for the benefit of Rural people are as follows

| Sl. No. | NAME OF THE PROJECT | OBJECTIVE | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 To help |
| 1 | Development of Utility packages to Watershed Management | in design and estimation of water harvesting structures and natural resources data base creation and maintenance. | Completed. |
| 2. | Preparation of Geographical information System (GIS) for Jhabua Block of Jhabua District Madhya Pradesh | Development of Cartographic data base using GIS for watershed development in topics like land use, soils, forest cover etc. | Completion report awaited. |
| 3. | Add-ons and Revisions of THEMAPS/DIGITIZ Software for Micro-Watershed planning | User friendly GIS for micro water shed planning including drainage patterns, computation of surface area and volume of storage, identification and Delineation of water shed boundaries, creation of 3D maps so as to display land use, water available, suggested croping pattern etc. | Project objectives not achieved, project is being closed. |
| 4. | Design & Development of Software for Planning & Management of different types of Watershed for Rural Areas | To enable any water shed development agency to use the state of the art technology and to optimise local resources and skills of people in different areas. | Completed. |
| 5. | Design & Development of Field Implantable continuous Soil Moisture Indication System for Irrigation Schedule | To develop a low cost field implementable continuous soil, moisture indication system for irrigation schedule keeping farmers as end users. | Completed. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6. | Design & Development of Testing Kit for Urea and Phosphatic Fertilizers | Fertilizer quality control and development of an easy to use fertilizer testing kit for urea and phosphatic fertilizers for which a fanner can check adulteration. | Completed. |
| 7. | Design & Development and Field Adaption of Microcontroller based Solar Powered Grain Moisture Measurement System | To develop a micro processor based, solar powered grain moisture measurement system which is handy, rugged, low power consuming and can be used as a stand alone system in the field which is ideal for rural conditions. | Completed. |
| 8. | Klectronic Monitoring and Control System for Cultivation Process | Development of instrumentation for cropping room including monitoring, measurement systems and controller, development of instrumentation for compost preparation including temperature, humidity etc. parameter, monitor' ing and data analysis in a production environment and deve- lopment of a controller for compost pasteurisation tunnel process. | Completed. |
| 9. | Computer Application for Village Information Network | Setting up samadhan kendras in Ramanathpuram district to provide information services for 30-40 Gram panchayats in two blocks Mudukalathur and Bogalur. | Three centres set up and a number of software packages been developed in agriculture/ rural related topics. Completion report is awaited. |
| 10 | All India Co-ordinated (A1CP) for setting up of Electronics and Computer Maintenance centres in 10 States (TDC) | Setting up of multi purpose training cum production cum ' servicing centres for consumer electronics. | Completed. |
| 11 | Production of video Films for Transfer of Rural | Professional grade video films which would serve as training aids in construction and installation of Fuel efficient chulhas, modern nursery techniques, hydroponic farming and production of disease free sugarcane planting material. | Completed. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12. | Design of Solar-cum-Electrical Dryer | Development of solar multi crop drier with electronic temperature control using forced air convection and convection heaters for coconut and later, arecanut pepper and cardamom. | Steering Committee meeting held in March 2000. Design and fabrication of prototype completed and committee recommended fabrication of one more prototype for users trial and feedback. |
| 13. | design & Development of Solar Powered uninterrputable Switch Mode power Supply (SMPS) | To operate village computer centre, primary health centre in rural areas where power interruption is high | Completed. |
| 14. | Solar Inverter for Water Pumps in Rural Areas | Major use of Non-conventional energy in rural area, allieviation of bad electricity supply in rural area | Completed. |
| 15. | Establishment of Village 1 nfor mat ion-cum-Cou nse 11 ing centers at Lugyakhedi Panchayhat of Tarana Block of Ujjain Distt. (MP) | The main objective is to establish village information centre at Panchayat level (samadhan kendras) to provide information and counsel villager and field staff with regard to rural development. The end users will be provided with information, guidance and counsel at such levels as planning, implementation and monitoring of the programme. | Preliminary Study conducted and report received. ! |
| 16. | An Integrated information System using Text, Graphics and Audio through Samadhan Kendras for the Development of rural community in West Godavari Distt, of Andhra Pradesh | To develop and implement a multimedia based integrated information system to meet the information needs of the rural community in selected villages in the areas of health, agriculture, education and government / banking procedures and schemes. The information system will be designed to be user friendly with *s* graphical user interface and audio output in local language/ dialect. | Preliminary Study conducted .and report received. i |

| I | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 17. | IT for Integrated rural De v. (Samadhan) Centres | Under the project, three Samadhan kendras will be set up in the Majhagaya block and a resource centre at the university to provide sustainable operation of Samadhan kendras. The project will be a venture of IT backed Gram Swaraj in terms of resource inventory and data centre to- Entrepreneurial sector, voluntary agency sector, Panchayat Raj sector | Preliminary Study conducted and report received. |
| 18. | Multimedia Software for Implementation of available Agriculture Technologies for various crops | To design and develop an interactive multimedia software package for disseminating appropriate information to implement the available agriculture technologies optionally for healthy growth of agriculture crops leading to maximum yield and to make farming a profitable enterprise | Completed. |
| 19. | Canal Control and communication in Irrigation Phase-II | Use of decision support system and telemetry systems for improved irrigation scheme including optimal water useage and adoptation of the process for use elsewhere- | Conversion of Phase I software upto Windows environment has been completed. Inception report is completed. Equipment •finalization has been done. |
| 20. | Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Information System for the Irrigation and command Area Development | Improved accounting and budgeting of available resources at river basin level, improved management of available water resources for irrigation, domestic and industrial water supply, provision of adequate, timely, reliable water supply, improved system monitoring, analysis, operation and maintenance. | Software development for Construction Management System(CONMS) completed and hardware being installed. Acceptance Test Plan(ATP) scheduled. Software and |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | hardware for other activities—in progress. Training in progress. |

**Growth in IT Sector**

4201. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Information Technology sector has shown tremendous growth in quality and personnel during recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last five years, year-wise;

(c) whether India is presently ahead of China in Information Technology sector by 5 years and if so, basis of such assertions made by competent technocrats ;

(d) whether Indian Information Technology companies are also far ahead in quality software, inputs and training methodology in the world and that out of present 30, the best 27 companies are Indian;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) steps taken for further widening the scope and marketing in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRl PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In terms of employment, the numbers for the IT software and services sector are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 160,000 |
| 1997-98 | 230,000 |
| 1998-99 | 280,000 |
| 1999-2000 | 340,000 |
| 2000-01 | 410,000 |